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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1127
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Al Anderson of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for his twenty-five years of service to his congregation, his Lord, and this State.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those members of the cloth whose devout service to God and their respective communities has instilled in others the faith to follow His spiritual path; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Al Anderson is one such distinguished citizen who radiates God's love and evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; through his great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, he has enriched the lives of the people in his congregation and his community for more than three decades as the Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Maury County, Reverend Anderson graduated from Columbia Central High School in the Class of 1975; at the early age of twenty-one, he became

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Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, not knowing the extent of the special journey God had planned for him; and

WHEREAS, in the years that have followed, he and his congregation have experienced remarkable success and growth; the congregation has grown from its original membership of thirty-five to include today's more than five hundred active members; and

WHEREAS, originally located in the rural outskirts of Columbia, the church is now located in the city in a beautiful 14,500 square foot building sited on five acres of land; and

WHEREAS, always heeding the call to service, Reverend Anderson has led his flock in instituting such needed ministries as activities with various nursing homes, hospitals, and public schools; the church also serves prepared meals to over 200 citizens per quarter and has a clothes and toys drive each year to help needy families; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anderson is blessed with a great and loving heart for God's work and a magnetic personality, and his congregation still benefits from his wisdom and love a quarter century after he first stood at the pulpit as their Pastor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, state, and nation; during the tragic rash of church burnings and vandalism in 1995, he was intensely involved in promoting new laws to protect churches and increase the penalties for vandalizing church property, meeting with President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Attorney General Janet Reno; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and character are well-known throughout Tennessee, and he has served on the Board of the Tennessee Education Commission on the Holocaust, volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club of Maury County, worked with City League Basketball for sixteen years, and participated in the Memorial for National Law Enforcement Day in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anderson is committed to the highest ideals of family values; he is most grateful for the tremendous love and companionship that he shares with his beloved wife of twenty-four years, Judy, and he is the proud and devoted father of Alvin, Jr., and Nathan Maurice; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anderson's outstanding career as a dynamic and compassionate Pastor and an active civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on God's grace, his dedication to the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, an unwavering commitment to the work of his Creator and Savior, the betterment of the lives of his congregation, and the welfare of all of humanity are hallmarks of the life and career of Reverend Anderson; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of Reverend Alvin Anderson's stature walks among us, and it is important that we honor him for his strong character and selfless good works and also recognize him for his life of purpose and commitment to God; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Reverend Alvin Anderson for his twenty-five years of meritorious service to the Lord and humanity as Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and many invaluable contributions to this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.